

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RLRETKA:BRC
APPROVED BY S/NM:JHLINNE-MANN
S/NM:LA-ALEXANDER(DRAFT)
ARA/RPP:JFKEANE
S/NM:DASOHLIN(DRAFT)
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: CEMEF SYMPOSIUM ON MARIJUANA

REF: MEXICO 4946

1. WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE CEMEF CONFERENCE ON MARIJUANA. HOWEVER WE HOPE THAT THE MEETING CAN RESULT IN MORE THAN A TEMPORARY GATHERING OF PERSONS ALREADY EXPERT ON THE SUBJECT. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE SUGGEST THAT CEMEF MAKE THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING AVAILABLE TO A LARGER AUDIENCE BY ALSO PREPARING TWO PUBLICATIONS. ONE WOULD BE A TECHNICAL MANUAL PRESENTING A STATE OF THE ART SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR THEMES IN CURRENT MARIJUANA RESEARCH. THIS MANUAL WOULD BE AIMED AT THOSE LATIN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE CEMEF MEETING. A SECOND PUBLICATION
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WOULD ADDRESS THE HEALTH, SOCIAL AND POLICY ISSUES SURROUNDING MARIJUANA USE IN LATIN AMERICA. THIS PUBLICATION WOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND WOULD BE NON-TECHNICAL IN NATURE. ALTHOUGH ORGANIZED AROUND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE, BOTH VOLUMES COULD INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PAPERS COMMISSIONED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PUBLICATIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH WE ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT, THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ARRANGE PAYMENT OF TRAVEL AND PER DIEM FOR THE US EXPERTS AS SUGGESTED REFTEL. THEREFORE, AS WITH THE SEATTLE WORKSHOP ON LATIN AMERICAN DRUG PROBLEMS, WE SUGGEST THAT CEMEF ADMINISTER THESE COSTS.

3. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT CEMEF CONSIDER INVITING DR. ROBERT PETERSEN OF NIDA'S DIVISION OF RESEARCH IN ADDITION TO THE EXPERTS NAMED REFTEL. DR. PETERSON HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN FEDERAL MARIJUANA RESEARCH FOR MOST OF THE LAST DECADE AND HAS EDITED ALL OF THE MARIJUANA AND HEALTH REPORTS ISSUED BY DHEW. DR. PETERSEN COULD BRING TO THE MEETING A FAMILIARITY WITH A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES SURROUNDING MARIJUANA USE AND COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE ON MARIJUANA RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. IF CEMEF IS WILLING TO OPERATE ALONG THE LINES DISCUSSED ABOVE, WE ARE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD PROVIDING THE NECESSARY FINANCIAL SUPPORT. BEFORE A FINAL DECISION CAN BE MADE, HOWEVER, A DETAILED BUDGET FOR THE PROJECT WILL BE NEEDED. IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL, S/NM STAFF MEMBER RETKA COULD BE SENT TO MEXICO FOR A TWO-THREE DAY TDY TO WORK OUT THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT AND DEFINE AN ACCEPTABLE BUDGET. PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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